

Editorial

THE NEW DEAL AND THE NEGRO

The magnitude, complexity and danger of the Negro's present condition and the grave situation of the Negro population as a whole, especially during the past few years of an economic crisis which has caused the Negro to feel the burden of exploitation and every day sweeping larger and larger numbers of

Negro Americans into the ranks of jobless, and starving, and causing the youths of the race by the thousands to have no perspective for earning a living is of such importance as to warrant every race loving individual to return to the folds of Republicanism for salvation.

The Negro is fast becoming a jobless, pauper race. What race loving man can stand docilely by, look upon this state of affairs without resolving to act and that forthwith. Only by returning to the Republican Party can this condition be alleviated.

The Democratic Party has lowered the economic status of the Negro more in the past two years than in all the years since emancipation. The CWA, AAA, and all the other alphabetical commissions are working untold hardships on the Negro. With the scarcity of jobs caused by the acts of the alphabetical commissions, jobs formerly held by Negroes such as domestics, hotels, restaurants, laundries, barber shops, and many laborious tasks are now being filled by other races leaving the Negro unemployed.

In a recent survey made to find the effect of the New Deal on the Negro, the report shows over 900,000 Negroes were jobless.

It showed further, food prices have gone up 34 per cent since 1933 and promises to go even higher. Food represents fully half of the Negro worker's budget. He gets fewer dollars in his pay envelope and each dollar he gets buys less and less of the things he needs to keep his family alive. He and his family are driven to do without recreation, to have fewer clothes, to eat less, to move to smaller crowded squalor homes, and to keep his children out of school thus denying them an educational opportunity. These are a few instances in which the Democratic Party wrought havoc on the race. (Watch for next installment)

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Installment No. 2

In our last article we pointed out that over 900,000 Negro workers in industry were jobless as a direct result of the New Deal. With this vast number unemployed, hundreds of thousands of dependent Negroes are driven into squalor.

Since the New Deal began operating it is almost impossible for a Negro artisan to get work at his trade. When he applies for work as a carpenter or electrician or brick mason he is frequently denied the opportunity to work because he has no union card. Yet when he tries to join the union a corrupt and prejudiced union official refuses to admit him to union membership.

On public works, built out of federal funds, Negroes are denied skilled work. They are told to apply as common laborers or else given no jobs at all. Skilled work is reserved for other races. Even when skilled work is available for Negroes, they are expected to work for less pay than is given other skilled workers in the same craft.

Thousands of Negro women toil to slow death in the steam laundries working excessively long hours for hardly a living wage, for the reason, claimed by some, they are not organized.

Where Negroes have been organized into unions or admitted into unions on an equal status, they have been loyal to their unions and have been staunch fighters for labor.

Negroes all over the country are unemployed in greater proportions than whites. In many cities they are on the relief roll in greater proportions than whites.

Right in our city, Negroes by the tens of thousands are victims of discrimination in the administration of relief. Negro families are made to move into squalid hovels before they are given relief. If in good times they managed to have a radio, piano or nice clothes, they cannot now get relief until they get rid of this luxury as the relief officials call it. If a member of the family, no matter how large the family, has a small job for \$3.00 a week, the family is cut off the relief. Insurance policies must be turned in. If you speak for your rights you are thrown in jail, fined or sentenced to the Bridewell. In short, the New Deal has placed the Negro in a precarious plight.